



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **S.B. High School Burglary and Vandalism Suspects Arrested**

**SANTA BARBARA, CA – May 30, 2013**

At 2:52 a.m., Santa Barbara Police Officers responded to a report of glass heard breaking in the vicinity of Santa Barbara High School, Peabody Stadium. Upon the arrival of the first officer two subjects were seen removing the hinges from a converted snack bar with a power drill. While across the field, the officer observed the subjects enter briefly and leave the building. Prior to sufficient officers arriving to secure the perimeter, the subjects started to leave the area. The officer attempted to detain them but the suspects fled the area. A search of the field and adjacent pool area was unsuccessful. The search did confirm the break-in at the snack bar as well as a broken pipe to pool filtration system which was spraying water. Crime scene investigators combed the scene and numerous items were taken into evidence including a power drill and other hand tools.

At approximately 9:00 a.m. S.B High School employees were conducting a check of the school after learning of the Peabody Stadium break-in. They found a significant amount of damage to the auditorium including the use of dry chemical fire extinguishers on the stage curtains, a broken window near the front entrance and graffiti in the auditorium. Several items were taken including a drill similar to the one found earlier as well as hand tools.

School officials were able to review the auditorium's video system and obtain video evidence of the suspects rifling through lockers as well as causing damage. Two suspects, Halen Bretz, 19 years and Luis Najera, 19 years, both of Santa Barbara were identified as former students and possible suspects. Officer Adrian Gutierrez was assigned to conduct follow-up investigation on this case and located Najera at his residence. Najera admitted to his involvement. Bretz was located a short time later. Both subjects were transported to the station where they admitted their involvement. The subjects stated they attempted to gain entry into the school by breaking a front window. After failing to gain entry, they broke through a window to the rear of the building. After causing the damage and rifling through lockers, Bretz and Najera stole the power tools and attempted entry into the Peabody facilities.

Both Halen Bretz and Luis Najera were transported to Santa Barbara County Jail where they were booked for 459 PC Burglary, Felony and 594 PC Vandalism, Felony.



Bretz, Halen



Najera, Luis

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